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Sealskin Shoes. The creamy yellow shoes of dressed sealskin (*tuktukaluk*) that formed the outermost covering of the feet during the winter months, and were commonly worn around camp in the summer, contrasted pleasingly with the brown and white caribou fur in the rest of the costume. The Eskimo made their shoes on two patterns. One type, the easiest to make, was a plain shoe (*ukuviaqtak*) in which the whole upper part covering the instep was a separate piece attached to the sole by a seam around the edge of the foot. More decorative, and, therefore, always preferred for dances, was the second type (*tuatuatsiaq*), in which the sole was crimped over the toes and its edges joined to an inserted V-shaped "tongue", broad or narrow according to the fancy of the maker, and cut from brownish black, undressed sealskin that stood out prominently in its yellow setting. The two patterns are shown in Figure 10.

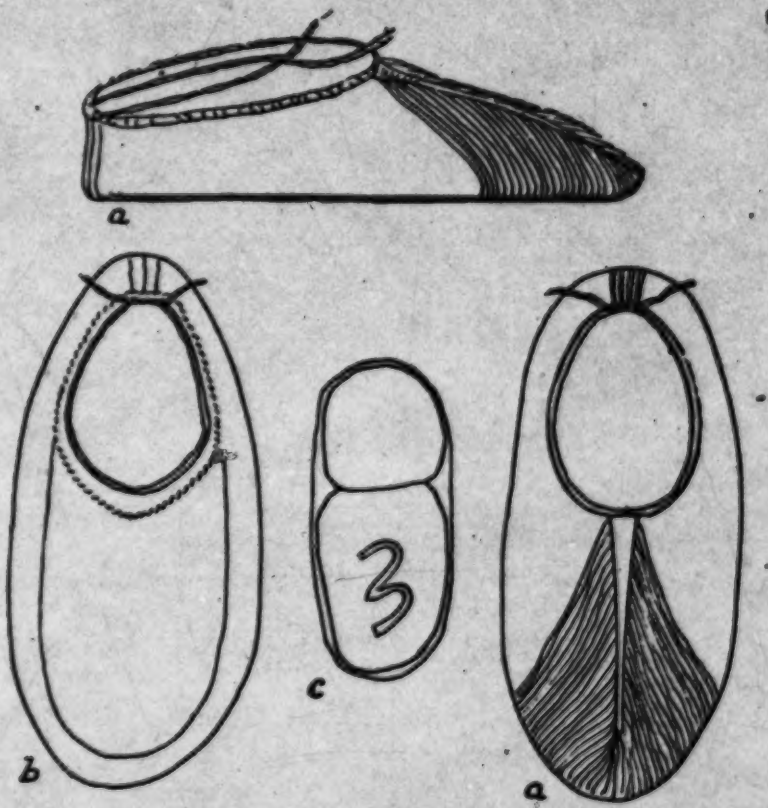

Figure 10. Sealskin shoes; a: crimped; b: plain; c: sole of b showing creepers. IV.D.51, 1859.

In both types of shoes the sole was turned up over the heel, and either crimped (the tucks being threaded together with sinew knotted at both ends), or else slit, and, after the removal of one or more triangular sections, joined

together again. Heel crimping was naturally confined almost entirely to the more decorative shoes. When not crimped, this type usually had one seam up the middle of the heel, whereas the plainer type frequently had two and even three.

A casing of sealskin (more rarely, caribou skin), undressed, and sometimes not even dehaired, was sewn round the top of the shoe to hold a cord of plaited sinew (*singiq*) that emerged through two holes at the back and tied in a bow over the instep. Two large patches of sealskin, dehaired but undressed, covered the whole or almost the whole of the sole, giving it double thickness; and whenever a hole wore in either patch, another was promptly superimposed on it. These patches had to be sewn on with concealed stitches that caught only the under surface, because the thread would quickly fray and break if it penetrated to the outside. Natives who anticipated considerable walking on glare ice or very hard, firmly packed snow sometimes added also narrow, meandering patches —"creepers"—to give them securer foothold (Figure 10c).

In the autumn of 1915, when the party with which I was travelling was still hunting inland, an Eskimo induced his wife to make him a pair of caribou-fur overshoes and to reinforce them with extra soles of sealskin. From another native I obtained a similar pair of caribou-fur overshoes that bore outer soles of dehaired caribou skin, and, over the outer soles, patches of sealskin. These were probably copied from the shoes of the inland Eskimo to the southeast, where they were invariably made from caribou fur, as the Copper Eskimo well knew. Around Coronation Gulf they were regarded with disfavour for ordinary use, because, although warmer, they readily soaked up the damp from the half-thawing floor of the snow-hut and immediately shed their fur. They were more practicable among the inland Eskimo, whose snow-huts were not so warm, because, lacking seal oil, they burned caribou fat in their lamps, which served in the main for lighting only.

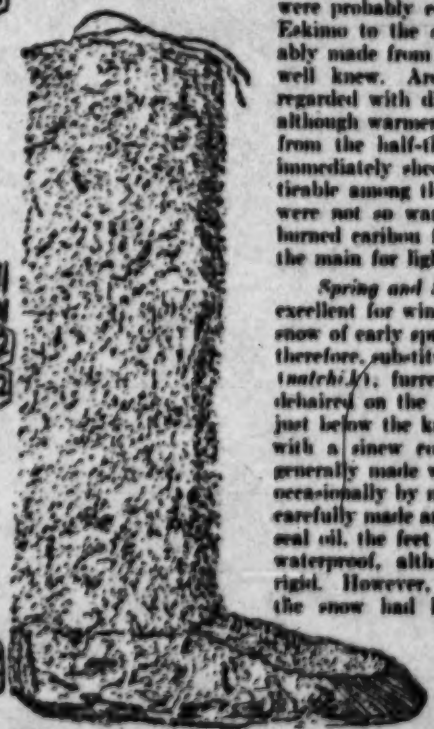

Figure 11. Man's spring boot. IV.D.1020. 1/4.

Spring and Summer Boots. Sealskin shoes were excellent for winter wear, but against the soft deep snow of early spring quite inadequate. The Eskimo, therefore, substituted for them long boots of sealskin (*natchiq*), furred on the outside of the legs but dehaired on the feet (Figure 11). They reached to just below the knees, and were there tightly bound with a sinew cord that passed through a casing, generally made with an extra band of sealskin, but occasionally by merely sewing down the edge. When carefully made and saturated from time to time with seal oil, the feet of these boots were soft but quite waterproof, although the uppers were somewhat rigid. However, toward the end of spring, when the snow had largely melted, the streams were running, and pools of water lay everywhere, the Eskimo changed to their real waterboots (*iperautik*) (Figure 12), which were similar in shape, but dehaired throughout their entire